

The Portland Observer Sustainability



East County Help with Solar Options

Energy efficient program brings economic and environmental benefits

Solar Gresham is for residents to learn about solar energy and renewable energy options. The solar installation program is also available to the neighboring communities of Fairview, Troutdale and Wood Village.

"Solar Gresham is at the core of the City's commitment to sustainability as we continue to make opportunities available that benefit the community and support the regional economy," said Gresham Councilor John Kilian.

Solar Gresham offers



Gresham resident Shannon Martin (left) talks with Imagine Energy staff during a solar site assessment at his Gresham home.

homeowners solar installation at a reduced cost. Solar contractor Imagine Energy of Portland is able to offer a bulk rate, discounted price through its partnership with the city. Solar Gresham is available until July 31 and includes a free site assessment, solar at 80 percent or more off the cost and installation.

"This is a great opportunity for Gresham residents to participate in producing renewable solar energy locally while protecting the environment and realizing long-term energy cost savings," said Dan Blue, Gresham's recycling and solid waste manager.

It's also an ideal time to take advantage of federal and state tax credits and solar incentives through the Energy Trust of Oregon while they're available.

For example, a 3.29kW solar system that costs around \$15,900 is reduced to about \$2,500 out-of-pocket

after tax credits and incentives. A second option, where the homeowner pays the contractor upfront for 20 years of solar energy and system maintenance, costs \$6,000 and is reduced to \$0 out-of-pocket after state tax credits over four years.

Free solar workshops explaining the basic technology, benefits and cost of solar will be offered at the Gresham Public Library, 385 N.W. Miller Ave. Workshop dates are Saturday, April 21, from 3-4:30 p.m.; and Saturday, May 5, from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. To attend call Nicole Cousino at 503-618-2485.

Solar Gresham is an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funded program and one of the City's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant initiatives.

For more information about Solar Gresham, including pricing and to apply, visit GreshamOregon.gov/SolarGresham.

Energy Trust Appliance Rebates

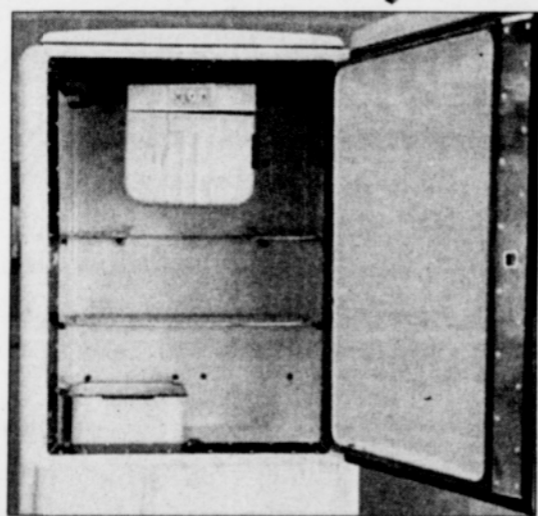
Offers recycling and cash for old models

Whether for grocery bulk buys or chilling those extra drinks, that second fridge in the garage or basement might be using up more than extra space. It could be using up hundreds of dollars on the household budget.

Many people are surprised to learn that fridges and freezers built in 1993 or earlier can cost up to \$200 a year to operate. That's a lot compared to today's most efficient, qualifying Energy Star models that could cost around \$40 a year.

To help Oregonians unplug and save this spring, Energy Trust of Oregon is offering area residents an opportunity to recycle their fridge or freezer and receive a \$40 cash incentive in return. Pick up is free, and the unit can be hauled from any room in the home.

"While an older fridge may seem handy as a back up in the basement or garage, most are not worth the ongoing cost to keep around," said Matt Braman, residential program manager, Energy Trust. "Recycling a second fridge or



Phyllis Greer's 1937 GE fridge was declared Oregon's oldest fridge in an Energy Trust promotion to eliminate energy-wasting fridges.

freezer is an easy energy-efficient action, and can make an immediate difference on the monthly energy bill."

Keeping an inefficient second fridge running for food storage can add up quickly in extra energy costs. For example, an average 19 cubic foot side-by-side model from 1989 will cost approximately \$1,195 if left to run in the garage for five years.

All Oregon customers of Portland General Electric and Pacific Power are eligible for the recycling service and can schedule an appointment online at energytrust.org/fridgerecycling or by calling 1-866-444-8907. To qualify, the refrigerator or freezer must be between 10 and 30 cubic feet and in working condition.

Customers looking for a replacement can receive up to a \$100 cash incentive from Energy Trust when purchasing a new high-efficiency, qualifying Energy Star refrigerator or freezer.

Charging Sites at the Rose Quarter

New public facilities are available for electric vehicles

Portland Trail Blazers President Larry Miller and Christenson Electric President Mark Walter got an assist from Oregon Gov. John Kitzhaber to unveil what is now the region's largest publicly available electric vehicle charging site.

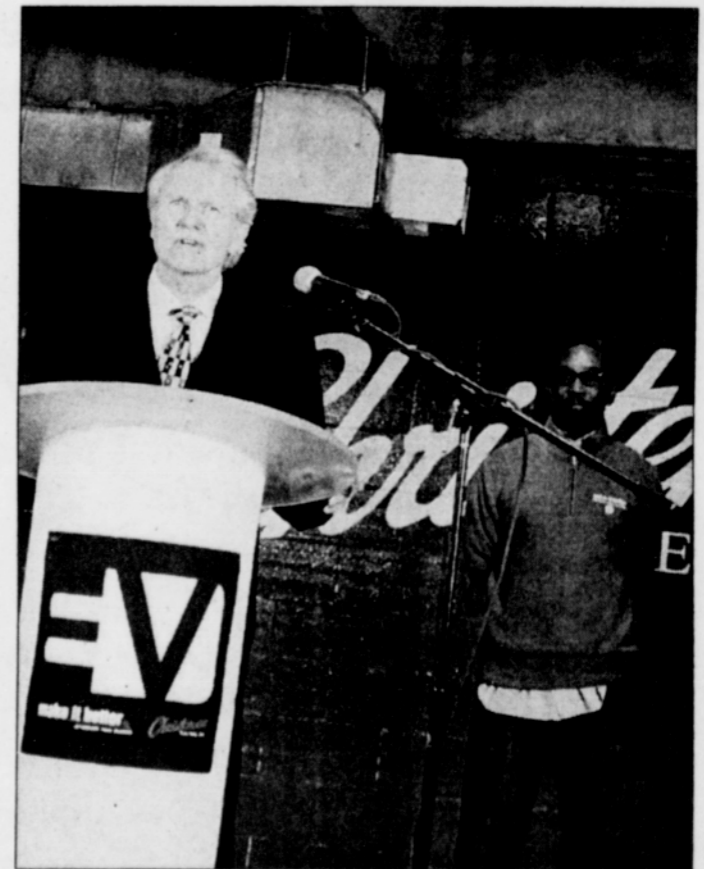
Through a partnership with Christenson Electric, the team has added 10 level-2 Blink charging stations to the Rose Quarter parking facilities. Eight of the 10 stations are in the Garden Garage. The two others are in the Annex Garage on the southwest side of the Rose Quarter campus. All 10 stations are located on the preferred levels of their respective parking garages.

"We are proud to be in a position to add these charging stations to our campus," said Miller, at last month's ribbon-cutting ceremony. "It not only aligns with the sustainability goals we have as an organization, it reflects what the NBA is doing in the area of sustainability. Being leaders in the greening of sports is an ongoing commitment we are passionate about."

Electric vehicle charging station nodes, like the Rose Quarter, are positioned to help further the infrastructure needed to develop a low-emission transportation future.

Fans and guests can charge their vehicles while attending an event, or use the nearby public transportation to enjoy the city while charging.

"Between the Trail Blazers' investment here at the Rose Garden, to the installation of charging stations up and down the I-5 'Green Electric Highway,' Oregon is establishing reliable and



Gov. John Kitzhaber and Portland Trail Blazers President Larry Miller at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for new electric vehicle charging stations that are available for public use in the Rose Quarter parking garages.

efficient infrastructure for electric vehicles," said Governor Kitzhaber. "We appreciate the Trail Blazers' commitment to helping their fans and all Oregonians access cutting-edge technology that will help us continue to consume less gasoline per capita than the national average."

The first electric vehicle to arrive at an event at the Rose Garden will receive free parking in the garage. Additionally, there will be no fee for charging electric vehicles for approximately the next 90 days.